

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 are currently pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. The Office Action concedes that claim 10 includes allowable subject matter.

Specification

The specification has been objected to because it refers to claims at page 1, lines 20-21. Applicants respectfully disagree with the objection but in the interest of advancing the prosecution the specification has been amended which should obviate this objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-10 have been objected to because of informalities. The claims have been amended which should obviate these objections.

Claim Rejections

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for use of the term "preferably." Claim 4 has been amended which should obviate this rejection.

Claims 1-4, 7, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0040669 to Grass et al. ("Grass"). Claims 1-4 include the feature of the control unit designed to drive the imaging device for production of projection pictures from a fixed direction during drainage of the contrast medium from the vascular system. Claims 7 and 8 include the step of production of projection pictures from a fixed direction during drainage of the contrast medium from the vascular system after production of projection pictures of the vascular system taken from different directions while the vascular system is filled with the contrast medium. The Office Action concedes that Grass does not disclose this subject matter of previously pending claim 10. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grass as applied to claim 1, and further in view of JP2001/149360 to Watanabe ("Watanabe"). Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and thus also includes the allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grass as applied in claim 1, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,337,992 to Gelman ("Gelman"). Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and thus also includes the allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grass as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,449,337 to Honda et al. ("Honda"). Claim 9 depends from claim 7 and thus also includes the allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-16 depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively and thus are also allowable over the cited art and combination of art.

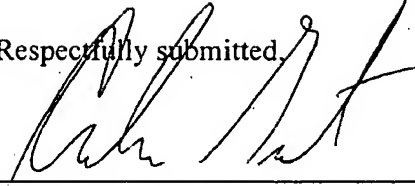
Newly added claims 17-20 include the step of capturing a second set of images from a fixed direction during drainage of the contrast medium from the vascular system. Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art and combination of art does not disclose or suggest this step of claims 17-20.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, the drawings and all claims presented in this application are currently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance. Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

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Respectfully submitted,



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